

EXCERPTED

Reporter Rowland Evans of the Chicago Sun-Times; Secretary of State George Shultz

ROWLAND EVANS: Mr. Secretary, you said in an answer to Bill Monroe that you didn't consider the situation as particularly dangerous between the U.S. and the Soviet Union. A high official in the CIA has prepared a memorandum which is now on Bill Casey's desk, I understand, which states that the period immediately ahead, contrary to what you said, may be the most dangerous the two countries have ever faced. He said, 'because they may chose a high-risk course to change the correlation of East-West forces before the West gets too strong.' Does the CIA know something, sir, that the State Department does not? SHULTZ: Probably they know lots of things we don't know, but they try to keep us well informed. In fact, their job is to see that important intelligence goes to the president and to me and to others involved in our foreign policy. I don't know whether you're quoting the memorandum that you published in your column the other day, or not...

EVANS: Yes, sir. Yes, sir. SHULTZ: That is the opinion of an individual, and individuals have lots of different opinions in the CIA. They have a process, we have a process in the government of people putting their opinions on the line and evaluating them and coming to some judgment. And the judgment that that memorandum comes to is not the overall judgment. There are a number of things in there that we consider to be wrong. However, let me just add one more thing. I don't think it's a good idea for documents in the CIA to be leaked, I don't think it's a good idea for them to be published, and I don't intend to engage in further discussion of it.